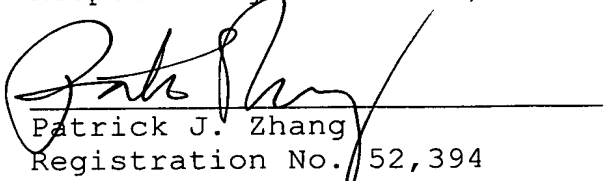
REMARKS

Applicants have added new claims 24-44. These new claims are fully supported by the specification (see, e.g., FIGS. 17, 21, 22, 25-29, 34-38 and accompanying description). No new matter has been added.

New claims 24-44 were previously pending in commonly-owned application No. 10/188,699, filed July 2, 2002 (now abandoned), as claims 25-32 and 36-47, consecutively. New claims 24-32 and 44 (numbered as claims 25-33 and 47 in application No. 10/188,699) were finally rejected in an Office action issued in connection with application No. 10/188,699 on December 15, 2004 (copy enclosed). New claims 33-43 (numbered as claims 36-46 in application NO. 10/188,699) were withdrawn pursuant to an election of species and were not substantively examined.

An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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